PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application. No.

U.S. Filing of International Application PCT/EP03/07984

Applicants

Staub, et al.

Confirm. No.

Unassigned

Filed

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Title

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Examiner

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Docket No.

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January 13, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Signature: Sucia MCC

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The Applicants hereby amend the above-referenced application so that it is in proper form for examination.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.